

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of facilitating charging for communication in a telecommunication network having a control-plane entity and a user-plane entity, comprising the steps of:

5 sending, from the control-plane entity to the user-plane entity, an event in accordance with a media gateway control protocol, wherein the event orders the user-plane entity to notify the control-plane entity when a predetermined volume of communication has occurred;

determining, by the user-plane entity, whether the predetermined volume of communication has occurred; and

10 notifying the control-plane entity when the predetermined volume of communication has occurred.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined volume of communication is a predetermined number of octets.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the user-plane entity notifies the control-plane entity by sending a notify command in accordance with the media gateway control protocol, and the notify command includes a parameter identifying the communication.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the volume of communication is selected such that signaling between the control-plane and user-plane entities is controlled.

20 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the telecommunication network is a GPRS network that includes a GPRS support node that is split into the control-plane and user-plane entities.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the event orders the user-plane entity to notify the control-plane entity when at least one of a predetermined volume of communication has occurred and a predetermined time period of communication has elapsed.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the telecommunication network is a circuit-switched network using packet bearers and having a node that is split into the control-plane and user-plane entities, and the predetermined volume of communication is one of a predetermined number of octets and a predetermined number of packets.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the event orders the user-plane entity to notify the control-plane entity when at least one of a predetermined volume of

communication has occurred and a predetermined time period of communication has elapsed.

9. A method of facilitating charging for communication in a telecommunication network having a control-plane entity and a user-plane entity, comprising the steps of:

5 pre-provisioning, in the user-plane entity, an event in accordance with a media gateway control protocol, wherein the event orders the user-plane entity to notify the control-plane entity when a predetermined volume of communication has occurred; determining, by the user-plane entity, whether the predetermined volume of communication has occurred; and

10 notifying the control-plane entity when the predetermined volume of communication has occurred.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the predetermined volume of communication is a predetermined number of octets.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the user-plane entity notifies the control-plane entity by sending a notify command in accordance with the media gateway control protocol, and the notify command includes a parameter identifying the communication.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein the volume of communication is selected such that signaling between the control-plane and user-plane entities is controlled.

20 13. The method of claim 9, wherein the telecommunication network is a GPRS network that includes a GPRS support node that is split into the control-plane and user-plane entities.

14. The method of claim 9, wherein the event orders the user-plane entity to notify the control-plane entity when at least one of a predetermined volume of communication has occurred and a predetermined time period of communication has elapsed.

15. The method of claim 9, wherein the telecommunication network is a circuit-switched network using packet bearers and having a node that is split into the control-plane and user-plane entities, and the predetermined volume of communication is one of a predetermined number of octets and a predetermined number of packets.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the event orders the user-plane entity to notify the control-plane entity when at least one of a predetermined volume of

communication has occurred and a predetermined time period of communication has elapsed.